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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ELIZABETH DOLE, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Spirit of God, from generation to generation, people of faith speak of Your greatness. You sit enthroned in majesty. Your glory covers all the Earth. Thank You for the strength You give to all who love You and for the blessings You bestow upon America.

Today, we join with our Jewish Senators and staff in celebrating Rosh Hashanah, "the head of the year." As we joyously recall the creation of the world, we ask that You would stir us to repentance and bring us into a closer relationship with You.

Bless all of our Senators and their staffs. May their words and deeds honor You. Guide them in righteous paths that will keep our Nation strong. Equip them to conduct the work of freedom with justice and humility. Give them the contentment that comes from knowing and serving You. We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ELIZABETH DOLE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ELIZABETH DOLE, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. DOLE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I will be brief this morning because we will get started immediately with our business for the day. Chairman STEVENS is having an Appropriations Committee markup, and we want to accommodate that important work today. We have made real progress on the appropriations bills thus far, and we will continue to do so both in committee as well as here on the Senate floor.

In a moment, we will begin the Military Construction appropriations bill under the agreement that we reached last night. We expect that bill to take an hour or less this morning. I will be discussing with the Democratic leadership a time for the vote on passage of that measure, and I will be able to make that announcement shortly.

We will also be discussing other agreements relative to the appropriations measures, and we hope to reach consent on several of those items today.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that following

the disposition of the Military Construction appropriations bill today, the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority and the second 30 minutes under the control of the minority.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ROSH HASHANAH

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, as the Chaplain just mentioned, and as we all know, the Jewish new year, Rosh Hashanah, is one of the holiest days of the year in the Jewish faith. For the Jewish people, Rosh Hashanah marks the anniversary of the creation of the world. It is a day for contemplation and prayer—and, indeed, we just opened our proceedings today with prayer—to look forward to the year ahead and to reflect on past deeds and to ask for God's forgiveness.

So as so many prepare to celebrate their holy day, I think we should all take that opportunity to reflect on what this holiday represents to all of us, something we do every day and in a global sense, as we look at humanity broadly.

APPROPRIATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE REFORM

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I thank, again, the chairman and ranking member—Senator THAD COCHRAN—for doing a tremendous job over the last week on the Homeland Security appropriations bill. It was a tremendous accomplishment. As we set out our business before the Senate last week, before we adjourn, we will focus on the issues that are important to America—the safety and security of the American people. We are going to continue that shortly with the Military Construction appropriations bill.

We were able to take up and complete Homeland Security. Right now as

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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